

Grenville (William Wyndham) Baron Grenville

S P E E C H

1509/166.

OF

LORD GRENVILLE

IN THE

HOUSE OF PEERS,

ON THE

MOTION OF THE DUKE OF BEDFORD

FOR THE

DISMISSAL OF MINISTERS,

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1798.

D U B L I N :

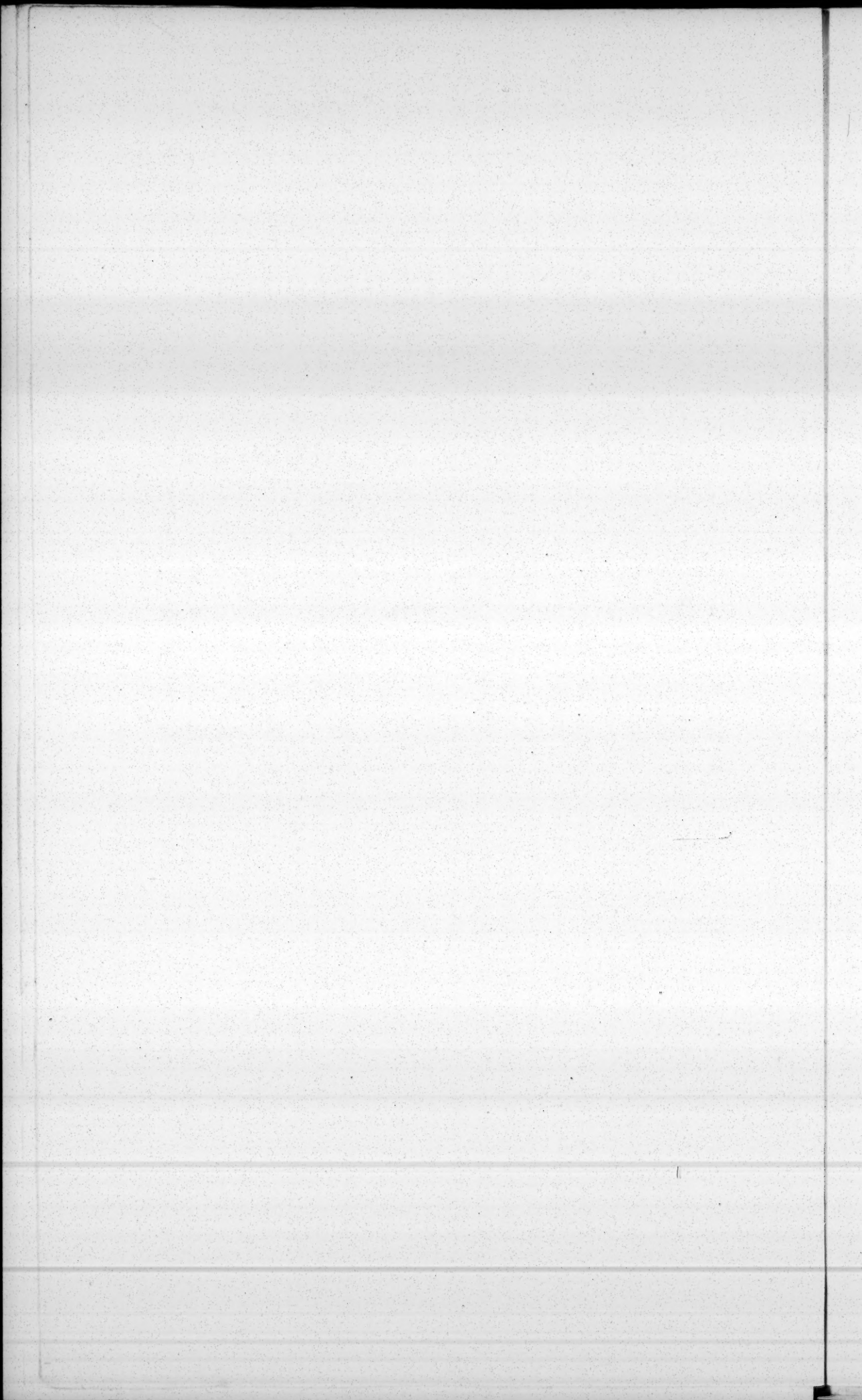
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1798.



ADVERTISEMENT.

VERY imperfect Accounts having appeared in the different Newspapers, of Lord GRENVILLE's Speech, in reply to the different Peers who had supported the Motion of the Duke of BEDFORD for the Dismissal of Ministers, on Thursday March 22; a Person who was present, assisted by the recollection of his Friends, has published the following Account of it, which, though necessarily defective in Expression, he is persuaded is accurate in Substance, as to the principal parts.



S P E E C H
OF
LORD GRENVILLE.

LORD GRENVILLE said, that on the present occasion he had rather thought it became him to wait the opinion of others, than to shew any impatience to deliver his own sentiments. Certainly, if it was true (which the Noble Duke* had that night imputed to him as blame), that he felt a desire for honest fame, and an anxiety to merit the good opinion of his Country, and of Posterity, that sentiment must be amply gratified in the manner in which the Conduct of Government had that night been spoken of, and in the quarters from which that approbation had proceeded. In what related personally to himself, he might well rest the question there; nor even would a much higher object, the vindication of the Dignity and Honour of Parliament, and of the Character of the British Nation, which had that night been vilified, have induced him to attempt

* Duke of BEDFORD.

tempt to add to that impression which had already been produced—He might even have remained silent, when it was said not only of Ministers, of that House, and of Parliament, but of the whole People of England, that they had embraced with satisfaction the idea of the Extermination of the People of France; an imputation so horrible and so unfounded, that he could hardly yet persuade himself that he had heard it uttered by a Member of that House*.

But he considered the present Motion as much more important, with a view to the present and future interests of the Country, than in its reference to the Conduct and Character even of the whole British Nation. It brought to issue here, that Question which now divided every other part of Europe, and into which one must not disguise from one's-self, that all political differences in this Country were now rapidly resolving themselves.—Considering it in this view, he could not satisfy his conscience, if he did not solicit their Lordships' attention to it. It would easily be seen from the whole course of argument by which the Motion had been supported, that the present Question related much less to the Conduct or Character of any Individuals, than to the System on which the Parliament and People of this Country were at that moment acting, in opposition to the Arms

* Duke of BEDFORD.



Arms and Principles of France. In order to decry this System, and to induce the British Nation to confess those crimes and follies, that injustice and cruelty, with which the Noble Duke had charged them, he had revived all the unfounded allegations respecting the Principle of the War, so often made in that place, and so often rejected by their Lordships. These the Noble Duke had with much labour contrasted with each other ; but their difference only proved the contradictions of his own accusations. The Principles which he asserted to have been adopted and maintained by Government, were indeed those Principles which had on different occasions been imputed to them by the Noble Duke and his Friends, but which the Ministers had then, as now, uniformly and unequivocally disclaimed.— The decisive proof upon the Subject was to be found, not in loose recollection or in vague reports, but on the Journals of the House.— The Speeches with which the KING had opened and concluded each Session of Parliament, afforded an authentic record of the language of Government respecting the origin, grounds, and progress of the War. There were, besides, upon the Journals, many Declarations which this House had made at different periods, sometimes at the express suggestion of Ministers themselves, and with the avowed intention of obviating mis-
 repre-

representation. Why were not these appealed to? What two of these could be produced which contradict each other? What one which would support the Statements of the Noble Duke? The KING's Speech in 1794, to which the Noble Duke alluded, he had himself intended to have read in his place: it was now too late an hour to detain their Lordships with it; but it was on the Table; and he challenged his Opponents to find in it any Paragraph (provided it was read entire—not garbled, as he had seen it in some Publications*), which could afford the least foundation for what had that night been said of it. This then was his defence of Parliament, against the imputation of having varied his language, or disguised its objects—of having engaged in the War for the restoration of Monarchy in France, or of having pursued it, at any period, with any other view than that of obtaining a secure and honourable Peace for this Country.

The Noble Duke had next proceeded to condemn the Alliances entered into for the prosecution of the War. It had been said that Ministers had pledged themselves that the Allies never would desert this Country. Was it possible that such a pledge could have been given, or that Parliament ever could require, or receive it? The
British

* Alluding, probably, to Mr. ERSKINE'S Pamphlet on the War.

British Government could not controul the Conduct of Foreign Powers. They had, indeed, alledged (particularly in the case of *Austria*), the various motives of good Faith, Honour, and Dignity ; of Interest, and even of Security, which ought to induce that Power to abide by its Engagements with Great Britain. Yet if these considerations were ultimately without effect, we had, at least so long as they continued to operate, the advantage of the assistance we then received. If any Continental Powers are so infatuated as not to see, that by shaking the Public Faith and Honour of their Governments, they shake the very foundations of their Thrones ;—if they have not yet been taught, that by giving way to the present views of *France*, they are opening to her the gates of their own Capitals, you may regret the circumstance for their sake—you must lament it for your own ; but you cannot, in justice, impute the blame of their blindness to men who act on more honourable principles, and with a wiser policy. We have under such circumstances at least this consolation, that if we now contend alone, it is against an Enemy exhausted by the effects of that very System of Alliance which the Noble Lords condemn. It was indeed curious to observe, that at the very moment when these Alliances were most loudly blamed, and when one Noble Lord * had hazarded the

* Lord HOLLAND.

the extravagant assertion, that it would have been better to have subsidized these Powers for concluding separate Peace, the loss of their assistance was the very topic on which the same Noble Lords had most relied, in all their efforts to depress the spirit of their Country. Ministers had endeavoured to procure that aid when it could be had ; we then reaped the advantage of it ; and even when its immediate operation has ceased, we feel at this moment its beneficial consequences. What would be said to any Minister engaged in a just, necessary and arduous contest, who declined to avail himself of any Alliances, because there never could be any certainty of their permanence ; or who refused a powerful aid in present, because it might possibly be withdrawn before the termination of the Contest ?

The House was then told, that in every part of the War we had completely failed ; and for that reason they were desired to withdraw their Confidence from Ministers, who had shewn themselves unable to defend the Interests of their Country. It would hardly be credited by any man who had not heard the Noble Lords, that in all their Statements of the conduct and progress of the War, they had omitted even the slightest mention of any part of our Naval Triumphs. On the affairs of the Continent, in which we have a secondary interest, they had dwelt with peculiar emphasis, but of that which was the primary object

ject to Great Britain, not a word had hitherto been said. This was the justice of the Noble Lords. They proposed to the House to condemn the Ministers, without even examining the principal feature of their cause. For the Systems of Foreign Courts, whom we could not direct; for the success of Military Plans, which we could not controul; for the operations of Foreign Armies, in which we had not even the smallest share, they attack the character and arraign the conduct of Ministers.—Of that which is immediately within the sphere of British Government, which claims the first duty of Ministers, and the first attention of Parliament; of that on which principally depend the National Prosperity, Security, and Honour, they wish you to dismiss all consideration.—Against this mode of trial, Lord GRENVILLE said he must decidedly protest; claiming for himself and for his Colleagues that share of credit, whatever it may be, reflected on them from those Triumphs, the chief praise of which was due to the Valour and Conduct of the British Navy.—The fact of these successes could not be denied.—In that part of the War which belonged to England, and in which alone the conduct of the British Government could appear entire and unmixed, we had not only not failed, but had obtained Successes which surpassed the most brilliant examples of our Ancestors. It was with their examples,
with

with their Naval Triumphs, with their Success and Glory, that he was not afraid to compare the present War ; demanding of his Opponents what other period of our History could be found, when, after decisive and glorious Victories successively gained over the Fleets of *France*, *Spain*, and *Holland*, the British Navy had rid triumphant at the same moment at the Mouths of *Brest*, and *Cadiz*, and the *Texel* ?

It had been next alledged, that we had evinced a disposition to continue the War beyond the time when Peace could have been honourably obtained. It had been that night asserted, and he had occasionally read elsewhere, that there was a period, during the Successes of our Allies on the Continent, when France would have been disposed to Peace, and that this disposition had been criminally neglected. It was difficult to meet such an assertion, because it did not specify the time to which it referred.—He desired, therefore first to deny it as a general assertion, and in the most unequivocal terms. As far as he could collect what was the particular period referred to, it was during the tyranny of ROBESPIERRE, of whom he could not speak in any terms of abhorrence equally forcible with those daily used by every Frenchman, and most of all, by those who had been most subservient to his Power. He mentioned the name, only to remind their Lordships
of

of the System then pursued. There was at that time no Government in France, unless their Lordships would dignify with that honourable term, Assassins, Butchers, and Executioners, stigmatized with the universal execration of Mankind. There was no disposition to Peace with England, unless it could be found in the Reports of BARRERE, who then first brought forward the comparison of *Rome* and *Carthage*—who then first announced the Principle, *Delenda est Carthago*; leaving to his Successors the first example of that language, since so completely adopted by the French Directory.

If other proof was wanted, it would be found in the Decree for giving no quarter to the British Troops—a Decree which, in justice to the French Troops, little as he was disposed to praise them, he must say, that even they had refused to execute, and which he believed had never been enforced, except in some few instances, by the immediate instruments of that sanguinary system. So far was he from thinking that there was at that moment any real chance of Negotiation, that in his soul he believed any British Minister then sent to Paris would have been sent only to accompany the Victims of that Tyranny to the Guillotine. From the moment of the fall of ROBESPIERRE, every opportunity that pointed towards Peace had been eagerly (sometimes perhaps too eagerly) embraced.

braced. The Question of the Negotiation at Paris, had that night been revived—That Negotiation had already been fully discussed by their Lordships; and their opinion of the sincerity of the British Government, and of the hostile determination of France, had been unequivocally expressed. He would not therefore detain them with fresh refutation of old and hacknied objections which they had so repeatedly examined, discussed and rejected. But a new accusation had that night been made, so extraordinary, that he had been unable to refrain from interrupting the Noble Duke by the involuntary expression of his astonishment. The Noble Duke had said, that the Plan of Peace then offered by Great Britain, rested on the Partition and Spoliation of the little Powers of Europe: when called to by him (though irregularly, he confessed,) to specify the particulars, the Noble Duke had told the House, that the British *Projet* took *Trinidad* from *Spain*, the *Cape* and *Ceylon* from *Holland*, and left the three Partitioning Powers in the possession of *Poland*. As to *Trinidad*, he perceived the Noble Duke had discovered his mistake, and therefore he thought it unnecessary to dwell upon it. He had never before heard *Spain* and *Holland* included in the description of the little Powers of Europe.—Nor would it have been considered as a proof of much disposition for Peace on our part, if

if we had announced at *Paris*, that this blessing must be deferred till *Russia*, *Austria*, and *Prussia* were compelled, by what means he knew not, to restore the antient limits and integrity of *Poland*. We were no Parties to that Partition, which we had always reprobated; but which we had no means to prevent, much less to rescind it after its completion. *Holland*, when we were first driven into War, was a friendly and independent Power, with whom rested the defence of those Possessions which are often considered as the Keys of the British Empire in India. We offered to *France*, that if she could replace *Holland* in that situation of Independence and Amity towards us, we would restore those Conquests: we even added, that if this, from subsequent events, could only partially be done, we would consider to what extent our own Safety would allow us to relax from demands, in which that consideration had formed the principal ingredient. So far from plundering the little Powers, the *Projet* had been expressly framed in the view of preventing such a measure. If by the restoration of our Conquests to *France*, the *Netherlands* had been procured for the EMPEROR, all plea for these extensive schemes of Partition now in agitation, would have been at once removed.—The failure of that Plan had led to the System now pursued at *Rastadt*, without the concurrence
of

of Great Britain. Of the Negociation at *Lille*, even the Noble Duke had found it impossible to speak in any terms which could contradict the general impression of the Country. He had therefore contented himself with blaming the choice of the Negotiator who was employed. Speaking in the presence of that Noble Lord (Lord MALMESBURY), Lord GRENVILLE said that he could not express all he felt of his conduct on that occasion. He would only therefore remark, that he was now censured for employing a Man, on whose Conduct in the most difficult situation, Malignity and Faction themselves had never been able to cast the slightest imputation.

From this part of the subject Lord GRENVILLE passed to the Origin of the War, which had again been brought forward, and particularly by one Noble Lord*, who for the second time referred to supposed Opinions delivered in that House long before he was a Member of it. If the Noble Lord was really desirous of obtaining information as to the Causes of the War which *France* had declared against us, he might refer him to the Journals of the House, and to the other Authentic Documents of those transactions. But he thought the Noble Lord might even spare himself the pains of acquiring more accurate information of former transactions, and might easily form
his

* Lord HOLLAND.

his judgment from what was now passing before his eyes. For, if it was true that present conduct afforded any criterion by which to judge of past intentions ; or that the character and views of Men and Governments were expanded and developed by Success, he might rest the question of French Aggression on that ground alone, abandoning for the moment every one of those arguments and proofs on which that point had long ago been decided by their Lordships. He would pass over every ground of jealousy or complaint which preceded the War—the occupation of the *Netherlands* ; the navigation of the *Scheldt* ; the repeated insults to our Allies ; the orders to DUMOURIER to attack *Holland* ; the orders to GENET to stir up *America* against us ; the Decree of Universal Fraternity ; the public audience given by the Convention to the Ambassadors of British Treason ; the Declaration of the French Minister of Marine to the Brest Fleet, that they should plant the Standard of Liberty in *England* ; the whole language and conduct of CHAUVELIN ; nay, even the Declaration of War itself, made in the midst of Negotiation, and at a moment when, by the confessions of BRISSOT, ROBESPIERRE, and DUMOURIER, *England* had manifested an unequivocal desire for the maintenance of Peace—all these he consented to omit :—The views of Ambition and Aggrandizement pursued by France upon the

Continent ; her unjust Aggression against *Austria* and *Prussia* ; her unjust Invasion of the German Empire ; her unprovoked War against *Spain*, *Sardinia*, *Naples*, and even against *Portugal*, the antient Ally of *Great Britain*—to none of those would he desire their attention ; though there was not one which would not in any good period of our History have been deemed a sufficient reason for calling forth all the energy of this Country—But when we saw *Geneva* and *Avignon* given up to Plunder and Massacre, without even the shadow of pretence—when *Genoa* was revolutionized as the reward of the unjust partiality to *France* ; when *Venice*, on no other ground than her obstinate adherence to Neutrality, in the midst of surrounding Hostilities, was attacked, subdued, and obliterated from the rank and catalogue of Nations ; when *Rome* was made the victim of pretences which add mockery and insult to savage cruelty ; when every Maritime Neutral Nation saw its Commerce and Navigation the prey of unbridled Rapacity and Avarice ; when neither recent friendship nor the sense of reciprocal benefits, nor remoteness from the scene of European Politics, nor long and patient forbearance under every injury, Foreign and Domestic, could protect *America* in the enjoyment of that tranquillity which she had endeavoured to purchase by so many sacrifices ; when even *Switzerland*

land herself was now driven to contend for her existence—the oldest Friend and Ally of *France*—venerated by all surrounding Nations as the first Asylum of Liberty in Europe—respected always in the midst of the fiercest Contests, as the inviolable Sanctuary of Peace, Industry and Virtue:—when such was the present conduct of *France*, might he not ask the Noble Lord himself, whether it did not demonstrate one invariable and uniform system, pursued alike against every Nation, hostile or friendly, in Peace, in Amity, or in League, but always most inveterate against those Governments which best provided for the happiness of their Subjects?

From these topics, the Noble Lords had gone into a discussion of our Domestic Policy—Our Finances had been represented as exhausted, and the System of Voluntary Contribution had been totally condemned. For his part, if he had thought the Resources of his Country exhausted, he should have been reluctant to declare and proclaim it, at a moment when, even by the confession of the Noble Lords themselves, *France* had haughtily rejected every idea of Peace. But he thought the fact was otherwise. He saw, indeed, great burthens necessarily imposed, but he saw an ability and a spirit to bear them, and even to open fresh Resources from Voluntary Donation. A mode which, though

the Noble Marquis* had now condemned, had at a former period been applauded in a memorable Speech from the Throne †, which, if the Noble Marquis would take the trouble to turn to it on the Journals, would probably refresh his memory, and at least satisfy him that there was once a great Minister in this Country, who entertained very different sentiments on this subject.

With respect to our General Situation, the Noble Duke had asked whether we had not sacrificed some of the strongest bulwarks of our Public Freedom? He replied with confidence that we had not—Parliament had performed its duty, in restraining the progress of Sedition and Treason, but no restraint was imposed upon the Liberty of any faithful or loyal Subject.

The necessity for any remarks upon the subject of *Ireland*, was wholly precluded by what the House had heard from a Noble Lord (Lord DOWNSHIRE) who spoke with all the authority due to his thorough knowledge of the subject, to his deep interest in it, and to the firm and manly part which he had personally taken in support of the Laws and Constitution of his Country, and of the Lives and Properties of his Fellow-Subjects. He completely agreed with that Noble Lord, that
there

* Marquis of LANSDOWNE.

† Speech from the Throne, 26th November, 1782, when the Marquis of LANSDOWNE was First Lord of the Treasury.

there was no salvation to *Ireland*, nor any chance of preserving its connection with Great Britain, but in the pursuit of the present system.—Much had been said about Conciliation, and one Noble Lord had gone so far as to assert, that even if there were a disposition to Conciliation, it would not be received at the hands of the present Ministers; as if we were really to believe, that when the Committees of Assassination deliberated about the plunder of a house, or the murder of a Magistrate, they first enquired whether the Noble Marquis or the Noble Duke had yet been named to the situation of Ministers in England. If Conciliation to them was meant, he knew of none which could succeed: Conciliation to *Ireland* had been invariably pursued by the English Government, but particularly by the present Ministers. Almost the first act of the present CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, had been to offer to *Ireland* a liberal participation of the British Market, at the hazard of all his popularity in England; and though the whole Mercantile and Manufacturing Interest was taught to clamour against him, for sacrificing, as they said, their prosperity to the Interests of *Ireland*, that Boon was rejected by the Irish Parliament, under what had been truly called the silliest delusion ever practised on the Councils of any Nation. Since that time the conciliatory disposition

disposition of the Ministers towards *Ireland* had shewn itself on every occasion. Speaking even of Conciliation to large bodies in *Ireland*, it was not unknown to any man acquainted with the subject, that their opinions had in one instance out-run those of some of the best informed and best disposed men in *Ireland*. In the present moment, he was satisfied that the only real Conciliation to *Ireland*, was to protect the Lives of its Magistrates, to defend the Property of its Inhabitants, and to maintain its Domestic Laws, and its Imperial Connection with Great Britain.

Such were the grounds on which the present Motion had been supported. It had been imputed to Ministers, but wholly without foundation, that they had made the foolish and arrogant declaration, that except themselves, there were no Men in the Country of sufficient Talents to conduct Government, and of sufficient Loyalty to be trusted. For his Colleagues and for himself, he disclaimed such an assertion—He knew, that among the numerous ranks of those who had supported the present System, there were many men of the highest integrity, character, and talents; many men of abilities much superior to his, and to whom, whenever it should please His MAJESTY to place them in his situation, he should readily give way, knowing as he did the steadiness of their Principles in support of the same

same System in which they had hitherto concurred ; though even then, he feared it would not be without some secret regret, that he should see himself no longer thought worthy to share the Dangers and to partake of the Honour of the present Contest. When he had said thus much of himself, he must assert with respect to his Colleagues, that he knew not where there could be found, even among all the Supporters of Government, men better qualified, in honour, integrity, talent, and virtue, to fill the arduous situations in which they are now placed. But allowing for a moment, that such a Change were made, would that answer the purpose of the present Motion? It would not—the choice must therefore be confined within very narrow limits. The Noble Duke had excluded himself and his immediate Party—he had indeed offered support to those who would accept the Office on the conditions he prescribed ; but he had said, that if they took it, he should admire their courage. In this LORD GRENVILLE said he completely agreed—to rely on such support so offered, and for such Measures would indeed be an act of desperate courage ; and if the present Motion was agreed to, he thought Parliament must adopt the recent Law of the *Dutch Convention*, which sentenced every man to transportation who refused to be a Minister.

The Noble Lords retained their own opinions in favour of *Radical Reform*; but these, apparently, for some reason of management or intrigue, seemed to be put less forward in this night's Debate than they had been before—the light was thrown on other parts of the picture, while this was shaded over, and kept with care in the back ground. Still, however, it was there. The Noble Duke had expressly declared, that he would never belong to any Government that did not carry through this *Radical Reform*. And he had concluded his Speech with pompous imprecations on himself, if ever he consented to act with the present Ministers, whom he justly considered as hostile to it. The Noble Duke might be assured, that whatever dislike he might feel to their System, it could not possibly exceed the settled detestation which they entertained for the Principles and Conduct of *Radical Reformers*, though they might not think it necessary to express their sentiments in the tone or language of Tragedy. Their opinion of *Radical Reform* was the same which had long ago been delivered by CONDORCET, a great authority on the subject of Revolutions, but who had not discovered the art of so guiding the storm which he had contributed to raise, as to escape becoming himself one of its earliest sacrifices. When CONDORCET announced with joy, that the Patriots of England were labouring

bouring in that cause, he added, that from such Reform, the transition would be short indeed, to the establishment of a complete Republic.

The Noble Duke consented, however, that the new Minister should postpone the question of Reform in England:—But in *Ireland*, probably because the danger there seemed less, or the objections weaker, he required that it should immediately be carried. Nor was this all—Peace must be procured with France, notwithstanding what had been confessed of her inveterate hostility to us: and a Noble Marquis had said, what he seemed to think matter of much indifference to the House, though to the new Ministers it might be an object of some consideration, that the Peace must be made, though those who made it would probably be *hanged* for doing so.

The Principles on which such a Peace was likely to be concluded, might easily be collected. In addition to all that the Noble Duke had said, of the injustice and wickedness of the war which this Country has ventured to maintain for its own defence, the Noble Marquis had given the House an Estimate of the value of our Foreign Possessions, which he had described as a load and burthen on the shoulders of this country. Combining therefore these two principles, learnt from the Supporters of the present Motion, the new Negotiator

gotiator was to proceed to France. He was, in the first instance, to make our humble Apology to the Directory, for the insolence of presuming to defend ourselves—to express our deep regret at our injustice, in maintaining against their will, our Properties and Lives, the Constitution and Independence of our Country; and to assure them of our sincere and contrite Repentance for all the bloodshed and carnage which their wickedness has occasioned. To such an Address, it could not be expected that much favour would be shewn—If we had any interests to maintain in such a Negotiation, we should undoubtedly be told that we had confessed our own Crimes, and must abide the punishment which France imposed. We might, however, perhaps, expect at last, that the Directory, taking some pity of us, would agree to deliver us from part of the burthen under which we labour—they might possibly have the goodness to relieve us of *Jamaica*; to take upon their own shoulders the defences of our *Indian Possessions*, perhaps even to discharge us of the whole weight and load of *Bengal*. And though it was true, that by these operations we should lose the best part of our Commerce, more than half our Revenue, and nearly the whole source and supply of our Naval Strength, we should certainly remain a light, disburthened, and well compacted Power, peculiarly able to resist the future

ture enterprizes of the Directory, and to defend ourselves against that which even the Noble Lords had described as the summit of human misery, subjection to the present Government of *France*. If these were the Principles upon which the Peace was to be made, he seriously believed the Noble Marquis's prediction would be literally verified—the Ministers who made it (whoever they might be) would certainly be *hanged*, and he was sure they would deserve it.

With respect to *Ireland*, the difficulty might be greater. The Noble Lords had appeared to feel, how impossible it was to persuade the House that the Reform of Parliament, and giving the little that remained to be granted to the Catholics, could answer their description of the effects to be produced by Conciliation; they had therefore protested against being obliged to specify any particular terms of Conciliation, but had defined it to be, in one word, the giving whatever *Ireland* wants. Supposing therefore for a moment, that a Parliamentary Reform in *Ireland* was as easy as it appeared difficult, and that the other measure could be adopted in its full extent without an act of Treason, there would still remain for the new Ministers to discover, and to grant, what *Ireland* wants. He was apprehensive that the wants of different classes of persons in that Kingdom, would be found not very consistent with each other. The Landed Gentle-

Gentleman, the Merchant, the Farmer, and the industrious Artizan, would probably want to preserve their Property ; the Juryman and Magistrate would want not to be butchered ; the faithful and loyal Subject of every Class, would want to preserve his Allegiance to his Sovereign ; while the Conspirator would want to destroy all Property, to place the life of every man at his mercy, and finally, to subject his Country to the domination of France.

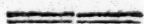
It was to resist these Principles that his Colleagues and himself were desirous to remain in Office ; willing to concede their situations to others, if by others more effectual resistance could be made ; but ready to expose themselves to every danger in defence of the Laws, Constitution, and Independence of their Country.

But the House had heard this night another matter of no slight importance. The *Corresponding Societies* in *England* had been mentioned—what those Societies were, he need not remind their Lordships—Their Publications, their Meetings, their Declarations, were in the memory of every Man. A Criminal had lately been convicted at Maidstone, of attempting to seduce the Troops, and he was found to belong to these Societies. A Noble Lord (Lord DOWNSHIRE) had told them, that even the United Irishmen would not have proceeded to the lengths they had, without the encourage-

encouragement of these Societies. In one word, he could distinctly state, that, in every corner of the King's Dominions, whatever Sedition or Treason could be found, whatever incitement to Domestic Tumult, whatever encouragement to Foreign Invasion, to these Societies it was uniformly to be traced. Yet with these very Societies, it had been stated by a most respectable Member of that House (Lord BORINGDON), that the Noble Duke and his Party were suspected to have formed a mysterious and enigmatical connection. He trusted, that before the House separated that night, this suspicion would be cleared up; that they should hear this mystery unfolded, and this enigma resolved. He hoped it was impossible that any member of that House could have the smallest difficulty in clearing himself from such a charge; in disavowing it openly, or in explaining it to the satisfaction of his Country. HE CALLED SOLEMNLY UPON THE NOBLE DUKE TO DO SO,

For himself, and those with whom he had the happiness to be connected, he had explained to the House the motives of their conduct. It was for their Lordships to decide upon them; be that decision what it might, it would not affect the Principles on which they acted: anxious only to bear their part, whatever it might be which was assigned to them, in that noble stand which placed their
Country

Country at the present moment in a state of greater consideration and respect in Europe, than ever she had acquired at the head of the most triumphant League. If they were anxious for Glory, it was for the Glory of having stood foremost in that resistance, first in labour, first in danger, and he trusted, not last in honour ; animating their Country to its ancient spirit, and enforcing to the utmost the necessity of that resistance which, if steadily persevered in, he was confident would withstand a torrent that had torn up by the roots whatever had once bent before it.



The Duke of BEDFORD's Motion was negatived on a Division of 113 to 13 ; and the following Resolution, on the Motion of Lord ROMNEY, agreed to without a Division :

“ RESOLVED,

“ That in a Crisis in which all the Interests of Our
 “ Country are at stake, we have seen with peculiar satisfaction, that the Zeal and Public Spirit of every rank
 “ of our Fellow-Subjects has risen in proportion to the
 “ magnitude of the occasion ; and that, animated on our
 “ part by the same sentiments, we deem it our indispensable Duty, instead of distracting the Councils of our
 “ Sovereign with Proposals of Change, to renew the
 “ Declaration of our invariable adherence to the Principles which have governed His Majesty's Councils,

“ and

“ and in which his Parliament has uniformly concurred,
“ for the Security of these Kingdoms against Foreign
“ Attack, and for the Maintenance of our Religion,
“ Laws, and Constitution.”

FINIS.



